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Identical letters dated 9 October 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write to draw your attention to an alarming development in our region. On 9 October 2013, mortar shells were fired from Tel el-Ahmar, a Syrian military outpost, into northern Israel. This action represents yet another grave violation of the 1974 separation of forces agreement. Assad's disregard for international agreements is exceeded only by his disregard for the lives of the Syrian people.

Israel has repeatedly issued warnings and sent letters to the Security Council cautioning that these sorts of provocations will not be tolerated. Israel cannot be expected to stand by as Assad's reign of terror results in shells raining on our citizens. The Israel Defense Forces notified the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and then returned fire on the Syrian military outpost from where the shell originated.

The continuous attacks on our border have the potential to escalate an already tense situation and further destabilize the region. Israel has shown maximum restraint thus far. I urge the Security Council to address this development immediately before the situation escalates fursther.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ron **Prosor**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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